

WARE RIVER NEWS

Vol. 135 No. 3

12 Pages

(Plus Supplements)



USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

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Baystate to work with town on closing Mary Lane

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – SelectBoard members and Baystate Eastern Region President Molly Gray agreed during the board's Tuesday meeting that the town and the health care company need to work together as Baystate works to close the Mary Lane campus.

Baystate would like to close the emergency satellite facility and cancer services by the end of June, and other services such as different practices will move to Baystate Wing in Palmer as construction there provides space for them, she said. The partnership with

Healogics Inc. to provide wound care has already closed.

"Really for five years we invested and innovated there but the patients aren't coming," Gray said. She said despite improving cancer services, women's imaging services, including 3-D mammograms, wound care services and even the satellite emergency facility, patients just didn't get their healthcare at Mary Lane.

She also pointed to efforts to bring additional medical practices to the campus, but six of the seven doctors recruited did not stay. She said doctors today like to practice with other doctors and have specialists closeby.

"It was obviously a difficult decision and a hardship," she said. "We want to work with the town to have as orderly a process as possible."

The state Department of Public Health will have to hold hearings and decide whether to approve the closure of the emergency satellite facility. The process includes public hearings.

"We're open to the disposition of the property," she said. "We couldn't conceive of another business use so we are offering to make it a green space." SelectBoard member John Morrin asked if that meant the site would fully cleaned and there would be no contamination issues left behind, and Gray said it would be clean.

When questioned about what monies might be left in the original Gilbert Trust, which created the hospital, she said the Baystate Medical Foundation is working to determine what, if any, monies are left. She agreed to share that information with the town.

Other healthcare uses

Gray also said if the town wanted to work with another health-care company to come in, Baystate would not be against such a move.

Part of the reason Baystate has said it decided to close Mary Lane

Please see **HOSPITAL**, page 3



Turley Publications file photos

At its Tuesday meeting the Ware SelectBoard heard from a Baystate Health executive about the closure of the Mary Lane campus over the next two years. The satellite emergency facility and cancer services may close by the end of June.

Editor's Note: Author James J. Paugh III has offered to let us run the chapter he has written about West Brookfield resident Everett Allen, and his service during World War II, which included time as a prisoner of war. Paugh is writing a book to be called, "It's Enough for Any Man, 100 Stories: Allies POW's in NAZI Germany." It will recount 100 stories of Americans who were WWII prisoners of war. The following story includes the first three chapters of Everett's story: The Mission, Escape and Evasion and Captured-P.O.W. Next week the Quabog Current will run more of his story.

It's enough for any man

Everett Allen's World War II experience

By James J. Paugh III
Special to the Ware River News

Imagine the shock and disbelief of 24-year-old Sgt. Everett Allen of West Brookfield, and his fellow crew member, Sgt. Billy J. Davis, of California, when the underground operative, turned Nazi collaborator, waved down a patrolling German sidecar to turn them over as prisoners and into the hands of the Gestapo.

After navigating for nearly three weeks behind enemy lines



Sgt. Everett Allen

Please see **ALLEN**, page 6

Story number 20 in
Everett S. Allen, sergeant
754th Bomb Squadron,
458th Bomb Group,
8th Army Air Force

Shotdown:
Thursday, June 29, 1944
13th mission
Captured: Tuesday, July 18, 1944
Stalag Luft 4
Prisoner of War number: 7021
Liberated: Tuesday, April 24, 1945
Held captive: 280 days



WARE – Aidyn Welsh celebrates a milestone with her 1,000th career point in Ware's game last Thursday against Amherst. Welsh is the 11th player in Ware history to achieve the feat. She poses with her teammates following the game. See story on page 7.

Photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Author captures Everett Allen's story

Plans to profile other captured soldiers

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WEST BROOKFIELD – Author James Paugh III has allowed the Quabog Current to run the chapter of his book, "It's Enough for Any Man, 100 Stories: Allies POW's in NAZI Germany," on Everett Allen, West Brookfield's favorite veteran, who is now 100.

We caught up with the Worcester-based author, who is busy writing the stories of different veterans who served during World War II and ended up in Germany's Prisoner of War camps. His retirement coincided with COVID-19 restrictions, and he now has the time to pursue their stories. Paugh also lived in West Brookfield in the 1960s.

"I wish I started sooner because there are fewer and fewer of them still with us," he said. He started down the path of telling their stories after meeting Bertram Arthur James, known as "Jimmy"

Please see **AUTHOR**, page 5

Former Boy Scout troop flag returns to Ware

By Paula Ouimette
Staff writer

WARE — Since the installment of a Boy Scouts of America window display earlier this month, Troop 281 Scoutmaster Dan Flynn has been receiving a lot of feedback from the community. The items in the display at the Ware River News office, at 80 Main St., have stirred up a sense of nostalgia and rekindled fond memories for many that live in Ware.

The most recent addition to the window display, is the flag of former Troop 577, recently acquired by Flynn. "We only know of three Boy Scout troop flags, this one, Troop 281, and another Troop that had been donated previously to Treasure Valley Scout Reservation. Even though since 1912 there have

been at least a dozen active Boy Scout troops in Ware, we only know of three flags.

A local antique collector contacted Flynn, after hearing about his efforts to establish a Scouting museum. The collector had purchased the circa 1950s flag from another collector. "The flag itself, for its age, is in remarkable condition. The colors are still robust and defined. The eagle that is perched at the top of the flagpole is from an original BSA-style cast. The flagpole is a very heavy, solid wood and on the bottom foot of the flagpole, you can feel the indentations of where the flag was posted for many years, most likely at the VFW hall, or the Scout hall," said Flynn.

In contrast to modern flags that are typically made of nylon and

secured on metal flagpoles, this one is made of linen with a carved wooden flagpole. The numbers and letters are appliquéd onto the flag's double sided design. A flag of this type, including flagpole, would cost approximately \$600 if purchased today.

No longer in existence, Troop 577, was sponsored by VFW Post 2577 in Ware. Flynn said there have been quite a few past members of Troop 577, who have contributed their personal Scouting memorabilia to the collection. Past members of Troop 167 and Troop 139 have also added Scouting memorabilia for the ever-expanding collection. "It has been a lot of fun reminiscing with each of these guys about their experiences in

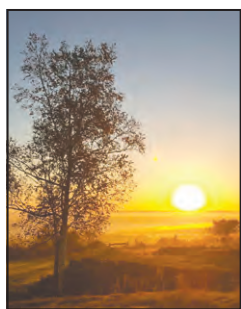
Please see **FLAG**, page 5



A Troop 577, from a former Ware Scout Troop, joins a collection of Boy Scout memorabilia on display at the Ware River News office. It dates from the 1950s. Troop 281 Scoutmaster Dan Flynn is collecting such items for a future Scouting museum.

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EQLT opens photo contest

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SPORTS

Aidyn Welsh makes milestone

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Ware River News
OBITUARY
POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

SelectBoard's notebook

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – The SelectBoard deemed a building at 13 Parker St. to be a nuisance and an unsafe property during its Tuesday meeting, and the town will demolish it to make a parking lot.

Building Inspector Anna Marques said the roof has left it open to the elements, which have done their damage, and there was evidence of hoarding and other debris. There are also holes on the first floor, which could lead to someone falling through to the basement.

It has not been occupied for quite some time, and relatives of the last owner who were contacted are not interested in the building, she said.

The SelectBoard turned down the opportunity to buy a small parcel of land on Shady

Path, which was offered because the land is under agricultural protection. It was .15 of an acre, and the town determined it had no use for it.

A water rate hearing has been scheduled for March 2, during which time water rate increases will be discussed.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said there will be discussion on Friday between himself, a SelectBoard member and Moderator Kathleen Colombe about a date for the postponed Special Town Meeting that was to be held last fall. They will also discuss the meeting's quorum.

A feasibility study on whether the town could connect to the MWRA's Quabbin Reservoir water source has been completed and will be discussed at the SelectBoard's March 2 meeting.

Scavenger hunt set for March 6

WARREN – Warren Parks & Recreation are holding a spring scavenger hunt on March 6, with a four-hour time limit. The clock starts ticking as each competitor picks up their packet with rules from the Shepard Municipal Building on High Street on that day between 1 and 2 p.m.

This is a COVID-friendly event for residents of Warren and West Warren.

Teams must pre-register and teams should consist of each person's "family bubble."

Teams that register online will

receive 10 points in addition to the points they earn.

Teams that donated canned goods or other non-perishable items at the time of their packet pick-up will receive one point for each item they donate, up to 15 points per team. The items will be donated to a local charitable organization.

Mail-in entries may be sent to Warren Parks & Recreation (Scavenger Hunt), P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083.

Build a legacy at the Warren Historical Commission

WARREN – Collectors and readers of Warren history admire the work of those who've gone before. The way they built their houses and helped develop the town, the old hotels and taverns, schools, banks and town halls. We've collected photographs, advertising pieces, historical

accounts and artifacts. All these items were created by Warren people who were living and working here. It is their legacy. But now what will we leave behind?

Those who serve on the Warren Historical Commission can contribute their knowledge and efforts and leave their mark on the town

records. Anyone who would like to create their legacy for future generations to admire should contact the Warren Selectmen and ask to be appointed to the Warren Historical Commission. Or, drop a line to tosgbuck37@verizon.net to inquire for more information.

ACCURACY
WATCH

The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to ekennedy@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

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Are You Old News?

Last week's photo was of Amanda Bradley, of Ware, with her 10-year-old Bassett hound Abby. She was at the town's annual rabies clinic. It was in the issue of April 12, 2007.

If anyone can identify the children in these week's photo or their activity, please send the answer and your full name to ekennedy@turley.com.

Quabbin Regional district to provide pooled COVID-19 testing

By Ellenor Downer
Staff writer

BARRE – Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Sheila Muir said the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education offered a free six-week pooled COVID-19 testing to schools in the commonwealth.

The QRSD Committee voted to participate in the free, six-week program as of March 1. She said the purpose of this type of testing was to identify asymptomatic COVID-19 cases. Permission is needed from parents of students and adults in the pool. The pool system would test a cohort of up to 10 individuals, students and a staff member. Students in grade 2 and up would self-administer the gentle nasal swab test and staff would perform the test on younger students. The superintendent said the testing company, Project Beacon, would get results within 24 hours.

DESE would provide test kits, the testing and courier service free for the first six weeks. She said if all the individuals came back negative in the pool, then the assumption would be no one in the pool had COVID-19.

If a pool had one or more positive tests, then everyone in the pool would take a rapid test. Muir said schools, which were participating in the program, found participation increased over time and she said it should be the case for the Quabbin District. Muir said the program was extra work for the school nurses and medical waiting room staff. She said the tests during the free period would provide the district with more information, and the School Committee then would make a decision whether to continue with the program. DESE did not give a definitive price at this time, but estimated the cost to be about \$30 per pool, and it would likely charge for transporting test samples to the lab.

School Committee Vice-Chairman Mark Brophy said, "It was a wise move to make."

Sports

Quabbin is in a pod with six other schools for the fall 2 sports season, which consists of football and indoor track. Football would start Feb. 22 and indoor track, March 15. The six schools included Ayer/Shirley, Gardner, Lunenburg, Murdock, Narragansett and Quabbin. Quabbin's home turf for football will be Gardner and away turf, Lunenburg as they both have artificial turf. Officials were still trying to decide the spectator limit on outdoor football.

NJROTC 2022 trip

The QRSD Committee approved a trip request by Capt.

Daniel Brennock for the Quabbin NJROTC cadets to Iceland for April 2022 with the usual provisos. Cost of the trip would be \$4,200, and accommodations would include three students to a room.

Student advisory

Student advisory members Nathan Legare and Sarah McMenemy gave the School Committee an update on the Drama Club. Legare said the Drama Club normally did a regular theatrical production. However, this year due to COVID-19, the club would be doing virtual monologues, which the students wrote. McMenemy said she was a stage manager, but this year she would be performing a monologue.

Budget subcommittee

Mark Wigler said the budget subcommittee met last week. He said revenue was a major issue for the coming year budget. The preliminary budget added 10 new staffing positions. He said staffing included three classroom teachers at Ruggles, a high school library media director, several paraprofessionals and possibly a transitional first-grade teacher. He said this was a "unique year." The fiscal 2022 preliminary budget of \$37,178,779, was a 6.2% increase. At this time, only the governor's budget was available. The House budget should come out the end of March.

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HOSPITAL from page 1

was it needs \$5 million of work, although it was pointed out that demolition of the building and removal of the debris will cost between \$4 and \$5 million, so the company will be spending that much either way. Gray said although that is true, patients still aren't coming to Mary Lane, and it would be difficult to keep it going.

Gray offered to give board members a tour of the hospital building and show them what work is needed.

SelectBoard Chairman Alan Whitney it would have to be determined if it was worth shopping the property around to other, but unless one was interested "we couldn't carry the cost of upkeep for it for even a year, it would bankrupt us." But he would like to pursue different options.

Gray said no when resident Catherine Buelow-Cascio asked her if Baystate had reached out to any other healthcare companies about taking over Mary Lane. Gray said Baystate works with a consultant to determine where to grow services, and the consultant has told them there is neither the volume or the acuity among patients to sustain a partnership for an urgent care center.

Eighty-five percent of the patients coming to Mary Lane's emergency facility have been for minor issues such as sprains, colds and flu, Gray said, and often had only three ambulances a day deliver patients.

Resident Tracy Opalinski asked if Baystate would consider providing more paramedic training in the area, and Gray said it was an interesting idea.

Opalinski also said Baystate Wing's emergency room is often crowded, despite its expansion, but Gray said she didn't have concerns about that as there would be enough room for the patients from Mary Lane.

Gray also said Baystate would be working to get patients set up with easy access to primary care providers, with walk-in appointments, which should help those patients' health and hopefully keep them from having to use the ER as a doctor's office.

Opalinski also asked if there would be a memorandum of understanding between the town and Baystate, detailing expected demolition, condition of the property and other issues. Gray said there would have to be so everyone is clear on what is expected.

Transportation

Gray also acknowledged transportation was an issue Baystate wanted to help solve. She said individualized transportation for the 35 cancer patients now getting services at Mary Lane was being determined as the Quaboag Connector is probably not the best choice for them as their immunity is compromised from treatments. Some cancer treatment may be available at Baystate Wing, but most will have to go to Springfield.

She said the company has given \$170,000 to the Quaboag Connector since it was started several years ago, which was part of the agreement when Mary Lane stopped admitting patients and the emergency room became a satellite emergency facility.

EMS services

Fire Chief Christopher Gagnon said the closure of Mary Lane's emergency facility was "a game-changer" for the department and will prevent them from being able to respond to calls and turn them around quickly. They will now travel nine miles farther to Palmer and will likely have ambulances out of town for 60 to 90 minutes instead of the many 30-minute runs they do now.

It will eventually mean more wear and tear on the department's three ambulances and either more firefighter/paramedics or more overtime for the existing staff since the town's third ambulance will likely see more use.

Seat at the table

Bob Kelley, counsel for Cedarbrook Village, a large senior residence on South Street, said while "it is very unsettling to have the news" of Mary Lane shutting down, he understands Baystate has to be the best moves for its business.

"We're between a rock and hard place," he said. "We've been fomenting a public/private partnership with the town and we want to continue to develop a strong relationship with Baystate."

He said it was very important for Cedarbrook Village official to have some influence over what is located next to them after Mary Lane is gone. "We're the most impacted neighbor," he said. "We would like a seat at the table," referring to any decision made about the property.

Whitney assured him the company would be involved in the process.

Helping the town

Resident Terrance Smith suggested Baystate Health consider helping the town in the form of a payment in lieu of taxes, since as a nonprofit it doesn't pay taxes. He said \$225,000 would help the town with some of the issues it will face with Mary Lane closing. Among those problems include Mary Lane being the biggest customer of the town's water and sewer system. He said without the hospital's water and sewer use, the town will be under further strain as it tries to put plans together to build a \$13.3 million water filtration plant. The plant is necessary to end discoloration from iron and manganese in the water.

Smith estimated the loss of use from the closure of Mary Lane equaled the loss of 100 households and what they would have paid.

"The effects go beyond just medical care," Smith said, who asked Baystate to be transparent through the process and to make a commitment to the community.

First Congregational Church gets new minister

Rev. Dr. Ann Michele Rogers Brigham started Jan. 1

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WEST BROOKFIELD – Rev. Dr. Ann Michele Rogers Brigham knew by the time she was 15 or 16 that she wanted to be a minister, and after a long career in the ministry, she has become the newest pastor at First Congregational Church of West Brookfield. She started her duties on Jan. 1.

"They ended up calling me," Brigham said about her newest congregation. She had retired from full-time ministering, and was living in the house in Mississippi she and her husband had bought for retirement. Her husband had died, and she found she was missing full-time ministry, leading her to keep an eye on full-time minister positions that opened up.

When she saw the notice for the West Brookfield church, she decided to reach out to them. "The timing was right, and we found we were a good match," she said. She came up from Mississippi and preached to them in the parking lot of the church.

The ministry has been a calling she has heard from her teenage years on. Growing up in a small town in southern



Courtesy photos

Rev. Dr. Ann Michele Rogers Brigham preaches to the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield outside last October in the church parking lot. The congregation has called her to be the congregation's minister.

Mississippi, and segregation was a part of life there.

"Segregation was very much with us in those years," she said. Seeing white adults say one thing in church and act differently outside of church,

restricting the lives of Blacks, seemed hypocritical.

She grew up on a dairy farm in a small town, and upon going to college, decided to make the ministry her life's work. She said her parents

supported her choice throughout her life, although they questioned whether it would be practical for her to pursue it. But they came to her graduations and were happy for her, she said.

She eventually served in Thailand as well as several states including Mississippi, Wisconsin, Vermont and California as well as several congregations in Massachusetts, including Woburn, East Walpole and Orleans. She also served for a number of years as a Protestant chaplain for Bentley University in Waltham.

When she saw an opening for a church in West Brookfield she decided to explore it, and she and the congregation seemed to be a good fit, she said. She preached on Halloween weekend last year and was called by the congregation to be their designated pastor on Nov. 1, 2020.

She added that the timing was right for both her and the church. "I was looking around a little bit for a full-time ministry as I found I really missed it, and they were looking for a full-time pastor," she said.

"Through the years, my experience and training has been to help churches become healthier and more focused on their mission to be agents of compassion, justice and inclu-

sion," she said. "My specialty has been to assist in addressing conflict and the need for deeper discernment about how we shape "life together" in the context of being "church." She expects to work on communication within the congregation and to help them create a mission statement as some of the work that is addressed first.

She said she loves being a minister and is enjoying meeting her congregation and others in West Brookfield.

"The best thing is the people," she said. "I'm just meeting them but they are giving, generous, caring people, and they are a beacon of hope during a time when people are finding it very difficult." They helped her find an apartment in town right down the street from the church and she enjoys her walks about town very much, getting a chance to meet members of the congregation and others.

She looks forward to her work with the congregation. "You have to remind yourself that change comes slowly and it's important to be a good listener – to listen and respond and try to be patient."

"Every church is a little different and unique and it's an honor to walk with them on this spiritual journey," she said.

Monson Savings Bank delivers check to a favorite charity

MONSON – Monson Savings Bank President and future CEO Dan Moriarty and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Michael Rouette recently visited the Scantic Valley YMCA located in Wilbraham to deliver a \$1,000 donation. There they met with the Scantic Valley YMCA Branch Executive Director Debbie Kelder and the YMCA of Greater Springfield President and CEO Dexter Johnson to celebrate the continued support and partnership they share.

This \$1,000 donation was made as a result of the Scantic Valley YMCA Branch placing in the top 10 vote recipients for the Monson Savings Bank 2021 Community Giving Initiative. Community members voted for their favorite charitable organizations and chose the Scantic Valley YMCA to be a recipient of the donation, like in previous years.

"We have a relationship spanning many years with the YMCA and we are so happy to continue to offer our support with this most recent donation of \$1,000," said Dan Moriarty, President and future CEO. "The Scantic Valley YMCA is right down the road from our new Loan and Operations Center and we know how important this location is to the employees in our office and all local community members."

The Scantic Valley YMCA is part of YMCA of Greater Springfield and is



Courtesy photo

Left to right are Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank president and future CEO, and Michael Rouette, Monson Savings Bank executive vice president and chief operating officer, presented a \$1,000 donation to Dexter Johnson, president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield and Debbie Kelder, executive director of the Scantic Valley YMCA Branch.

located at 45 Post Office Park in Wilbraham. The location offers various programs and services for youth, teens, families and seniors to support the mind, body and spirit. This includes aquatics, cycling, pickleball,

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SOCIAL SECURITY

How will my wife's benefits affect my state pension?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I am 73 and receive a pension from my state's Police and Fire Pension Fund. I took a full pension, so my wife only gets a widow's pension when I die, and this is only a fraction of what my full pension. I also get a small Social Security benefit, about \$95 a month, and that amount is pro-rated because of the amount of my state pension. My wife is 71 and receives a Social Security benefit of about \$600 a month. When I die, can she get a portion of my Social Security benefit? And will it increase since she will not be getting my full state pension? Signed: Retired Public Servant

Dear Retired: The state you live in is one of 26 which have opted for many state employees to not participate in the Federal Social Security program. As a result, your Social Security benefit, earned from work outside of your state employment, is reduced by your state pension. The details of your state pension and what portion of that pension your wife will receive as your widow isn't what affects your, or your wife's Social Security benefit amount. Rather, the base amount of your current state pension is what affects your benefit, due to a rule known as the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

WEP is why your Social Security benefit is only \$95/month. WEP applies to your personal Social Security retirement benefit, earned from working outside of your state employment, and reduces your Social Security benefit due to your state pension, because neither you nor your state employer paid Social Security FICA taxes on your earnings. And since your personal Social Security retirement benefit is reduced by WEP, your wife's spousal benefit, not her widow's benefit, from you would also be reduced, although from the numbers you shared your wife isn't entitled to a spousal benefit.

Your wife's own Social Security retirement benefit from her own work record is not affected by WEP because WEP applies to your benefits only. And neither will your wife's Social Security survivor benefit as your widow be affected by your state pension, should you predecease her. If you die first, your wife will be eligible to collect, as her survivor benefit, 100% of the amount you were entitled to before your WEP reduction, if that amount is greater than the Social Security benefit she is entitled to on her own work record. And that would, again, be totally independent of whatever she receives from your state pension. In other words, your wife's Social Security benefit, her own Social Security benefit or her survivor benefit, will not be at all affected by your state pension.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

History Matters

Feb 16 to Feb. 28

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is given to children's books that emphasize the importance of American history.

Twenty years after the United States was freed of Britain, America went to war, again, this time against the populous pirate population in the Mediterranean. Pocketed throughout Africa, in Morocco, Algeria, Tunis and Tripolitania [Libya], they ambushed U.S. merchant ships, seized cargoes, commandeered crews and collected large ransoms. Hostilities got so heated that President Jefferson dispatched the Navy in 1801.

In October 1803, the Philadelphia, a part of an expeditionary force, ran aground off the coast of Tripoli, and was captured, causing concern that America's proprietary know-how would be re-constituted in enemy warships.

On Feb. 16, Lt. Stephen Decatur and 74 of his men, including nine marines, disguised themselves as Maltese sailors, crept into Tripolitan waters, boarded the Philadelphia, overpowered the crew and torched the vessel.

The daring nature of their perfectly executed mission, without a single American casualty, was heralded around the world. Even British Admiral Horatio Nelson, arguably the most famous seafaring hero of the time, called it the "most daring act of the age."

The Garden Lady tackles milk jug seed sowing, part 1

Barbara, who gardens in Wilbraham, wrote to me recently, complimenting the column (thank you!) and asking if I had any opinion of "winter sowing" seeds in re-used gallon jugs. This technique is all the rage right now on social media and in gardening blogs, and while I had read about it many years ago and again recently, I have never tried it myself. Perhaps some research into the topic would prove beneficial for me as well as my readers!

The basic premise of winter sowing is to plant your seeds in mini-greenhouses (the gallon jugs), place the jugs outside and simply let nature take over. The advantage being that no heat mats or lights are needed. No window sills full of seedlings, either. While I don't think it is as simple as it sounds, I do think trying it would be a fun experiment. Read on this week and next to consider some of the pros and possible cons of this seed starting technique.

Years ago I read a blog where a master gardener was encouraging folks to start native perennials in milk jugs outside; he called it "winter sowing." The seeds of many of these plants require a period of cold and moist stratification to break seed dormancy. In simple

terms, they need to go through winter in order to sprout. Think of it as nature's safety mechanism; seeds germinate at the right time to survive and thrive! You may ask, then, why not just sow the seeds outdoors in the garden? In theory it sounds good, but in reality "the wild" is not the best seed bed. From hungry birds and rodents, to wind and drenching rains, success is hit or miss. Safely inside the milk jug, but at the same time outside in the elements to freeze and thaw, freeze and thaw, tricky seeds are coaxed into germinating.

Success at your fingertips!

My method of combating tricky germinators has always been the refrigerator. By putting seeds in moist soil in a small plastic bag and chilling them for a month or so at 40 degrees, I am usually successful at providing an abbreviated "winter," satisfying germination requirements that break dormancy. Recently, I watched a video from a wildflower specialist in Canada, who abbreviated "winter" a bit further. She simply places seeds in the fridge for 24 hours, then the freezer for 24 hours. Five times back and forth and she swears dormancy is broken.

After the period of stratification has

passed, seeds are handled as normal, sown on the surface of a moist soilless mix with the provision of bottom heat and supplemental light. But what if I didn't have the props, or even enough window sills to limp along seedlings inside? Here is where I think sowing in milk jugs could be of benefit, and it goes beyond "winter" or even seeds that need specialized treatments to germinate.

More recent blogs speak of starting everything from cold-hardy annuals to heat-loving vegetables inside milk jugs, and while I don't think the method is fool-proof, or meant for the lazy gardener, I do think there is good reason to give it a try. Gather some supplies: duct tape, empty gallon jugs, decent seed starting soil, a paint pen and a selection of seeds. Perennial herbs and flowers can be sown right away and next week the how-to portion will explain exactly how to do it.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for holiday volunteers

To all who cooked food, cut vegetables, bought food, provided to-go containers, home-cooked desserts and pies, compiled and organized the dinner delivery and take-out requests lists, organized the deliveries, kept the delivery and take-out people in cars in our parking lot organized and informed, assisted in carving turkeys, cut hams and made the sauce, ran the kitchen, helped in the kitchen, assisted in cleanup, delivered dinners and made monetary donations to the Ware annual holiday dinners, thank you!

Through the past three decades, we have come to appreciate, and depend on, this amazing group of generous, hard working and extremely helpful people known as volunteers. Your willingness to donate your time, talents and treasures to help others is so refreshing in a world that sees less and less of that kind of generosity. You, the volunteers, are truly the backbone of this event. You hailed from Ware, Palmer, Hardwick, West Brookfield, South Hadley and even Springfield. You wore masks, completed the COVID tracking information sheet, kept the proper distance from your fellow volunteers, washed your hands often and worked in the rain just so others could enjoy a hot meal on Thanksgiving and Christmas. You are all very special people and greatly appreciated.

And thank you the United Church of Ware for hosting these dinners for over 30 years.

Now, carry on that desire to help others in your daily activities: offer a helping hand to your neighbors and a stranger, donate your time and hard-earned money to great local causes, open the door for another and remember to share a smile, when smiles can again be seen, volunteer to serve on a committee or town board. And remember that we can use your help once again in a little over nine months from now. We hope you enjoyed your experience with us, and will rejoin us again when our request for help is shared by The Ware River News.

Stay well, stay safe and be happy!
Thank you, Dave & Mary Gravel and the United Church of Ware



In my backyard

By Ellenor Downer

The last week of January, I saw a barred owl perched in a tree at the edge of my yard. Last year, I saw a barred owl in my yard on a regular basis. It would often perch on the roof of my henhouse. This year, I had not seen it until recently. It was probably hoping to catch rodents hiding in the tall grass.

The barred owl is a large, earless owl with dark eyes. It has barring on its head and chest with streaking underneath. It has gray and brown feathers and white spots on its back. It is about 17 to 24 inches long. The barred owl and barn owl are the only owls with black eyes; all others have yellow eyes.

The barred owl is one of the more vocal owls, often calling during the day and saying "hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo," which sounds like "who cooks for you?" The female's hoots are higher pitched than the male's. They inhabit woods and woodland swamps. A pair often calls back and forth to each other.

The female lays two to four white eggs. She will use a nest box, which has a hole greater than six inches or nest in an abandoned hawk or crow nest. The average territory is about one square mile. In winter, they may expand the territory with males often leaving the territory when food is scarce. In early spring, they return to their mate and territory.

Injured barred owl

I recently read a barred owl, which was struck by a car, and brought to the Cummings School Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in Grafton for treatment, was returned to the wild. A man driving behind the vehicle, which hit the owl, saw it happen. He stopped as the owl appeared stunned and was flapping its wings. He wrapped it in his coat and called police. It was brought to Tufts and released back into the wild at a wildlife area near where it was found a few weeks later.

Red-winged blackbird

A Wheelwright resident saw his first red-winged blackbird for 2021. He said he did not see the bird at his feeder, but he saw it perched in a tree and then in flight.

Flock of robins

I received an email from a North Brookfield resident on Jan. 30. She said,



Courtesy photo

A barred owl.

"This week I had a flock of robins descend on my holly bush and eat every berry on it and it was full of berries." She also had four starlings come to her feeders.

Birds during snowstorm

The month of February opened with a major snowstorm Monday, Feb. 1 into Tuesday, Feb. 2. It dumped over a foot of snow. The snow started early Monday and I had a mourning dove, five or six blue jays, at least six American goldfinches, a pair of cardinals, three chipping sparrows, downy woodpeckers, red-bellied woodpecker, black-capped chickadees, tufted titmice and dark-eyed juncos. I also had a group of gray squirrels. Tuesday I had two squirrels tunneled into the snow to find the seeds on the ground under the tray feeder. Except for the mourning dove, all the birds from yesterday came to the feeders. The male cardinal stood out with his bright red feathers against the white snow.

People may report a bird sighting or bird-related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at ext. 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Ware River News, please email ekennedy@turley.com.

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WARE RIVER NEWS



The Ware River News (USPS 666100) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and "Your Turn" guest column between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Send opinions to:
Ware River News
Letter to the Editor
80 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
or via email to:
ekennedy@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

2021Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

community

Cornerstone Bank offers student scholarships

SOUTHBIDGE – Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout central Massachusetts, will be awarding sixteen \$2,000 scholarships to students in the area it serves. Cornerstone Bank is hoping to help 2021 high school graduates throughout their community pursue higher education and foster advancement in the fields of business and finance. The sixteen scholarships will be awarded to the students who best demonstrate achievement in academics, extracurricular activities and community involvement.

“Making sure the future leaders of America get a great education is so important to us at Cornerstone Bank,” said CEO Todd Tallman. “We are excited to be able to help students achieve their dreams every year to go into the business or finance industries. Access to a good education can be difficult for many students, especially with how difficult this past year has been, so we hope the help we are able to provide to this group of graduates helps them to reach their goals.”

To apply for a scholarship, the student must:

- Be a 2021 high school graduate
- Reside within 10 miles of a Cornerstone Bank branch or office
- Anticipate being a full-time student at an accredited, degree-granting institution

of higher education

Anticipate studying in a business or financial field

Demonstrate achievement and high standards in academics, extracurricular activities and community involvement

Submit an official transcript and GPA from their guidance office

In addition, the student must choose one of the following prompts and submit a one-page typed essay:

“Are there any challenges you have had to overcome in your high school career?” or “What are your goals for the future, and how will this scholarship assist you in meeting them?”

Applications must be submitted or postmarked to Cornerstone Bank by April 5. Please send all applications to scholarships@cornerstonebank.com, or mail to Cornerstone Bank Scholarship Committee: P.O. Box 370, Southbridge, MA 01550. Selected recipients will be announced by the week of May 24. Scholarship funds will be disbursed to the student after successful completion of the first semester, and upon presentation of an official copy of the first semester transcript and second semester bill. For more information, and to download the application form, please visit cornerstonebank.com/scholarships/.



Courtesy photo
The East Quabbin Land Trust is holding a photo contest from Feb. 1 to June. This one, entitled “Mandell Magic,” by Brian White, was the 2019 photo contest winner.

Show off East Quabbin Land Trust photos in contest

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust will be holding a photo contest from Feb. 1 to June 1, giving people a chance to capture a little of the natural beauty of the East Quabbin region.

Photos will be presented at a curated outdoor show on June 20. Prizes will include EQLT swag, a gift card to a local business and of course, bragging rights.

All photos must be taken at an EQLT preserve and photos with watermarks will not be accepted. There is no limit to the amount of submissions each person can enter. Submissions may be entered

until June 1. EQLT reserves the right to reject a submission for any reason.

To submit, send and email to Jess Cusworth at jcusworth@eqtl.org to request the Dropbox link, which does not require a Dropbox account

Those submitting should include their last name and the title of their photo in the file name, such as Cusworth_SunriseOnMandellHill.jpg. Then upload the photo through the Dropbox link. Email Jess with any questions.

AUTHOR from page 1

James, the English flier who was driven to attempt escape numerous times while being held as a prisoner of war in Germany. “He escaped so often Hitler knew his name,” Paugh said. James died in 2008.

Paugh met James a number of years ago at the Duxford Air Show in England, whose story was told in the movie “The Great Escape” and in James’ memoir, “Moonless Night.”

That led to reading plenty of first-hand accounts by those held in German and Japanese prisoner of war camps, he said, and he’s consumed about 300 of them so far.

Listening to veterans’ stories about their time in the camps has opened Paugh’s eyes to their perseverance and

bravery, and how they don’t really think what they did was all that special.

“Everett Allen’s story is so compelling,” he said. “I spoke with him three or four times, and he is just delightful to talk to. He has a great story of persevering through it all.”

He suspects there are several books from the information he is gathering and writing: one on 100 World War II prisoners of war held by Germany, 100 stories of those held in such camps by Japan and how humans survive such trying, life-threatening circumstances.

Paugh may be reached at info@tothefifty.com and he is always looking for World War II soldiers who were prisoners of war by Germany and Japan who may wish to talk about their experiences.

The Troop 577 flag and flagpole were from the Ware 577 Troop, and was likely displayed at the VFW Post 2577 in Ware or at the Scout hall.

Staff photos by Paula Ouintette



FLAG from page 1

Scouting,” said Flynn.

Many that were involved with these former troops are still involved in Ware Scouting today. One of which being Edward Wyzik, commander of AMVETS 2577, which sponsors Troop 281. Wyzik was a Scoutmaster and an Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 577 in the 1960s. Wyzik said he was very happy to know the flag had returned to the troop in Ware.

“This brings back a lot of memories of my time in Scouting, when I was much younger,” he said.

The Troop 577 flag will be proudly displayed along with the Troop 281 flag in the Ware River News window, as it shows how important Scouting has been to Ware over the decades.

“Our goal is to recreate a Scouting array of flags which will be marched at the next town parade, either on Memorial Day or Veterans Day,” said Flynn.

HISTORY from page 4

“The Greatest of All Time”

On February 25, 1964, a 22-year-old newcomer to boxing, by the name of Cassius Clay, catapulted to the world heavyweight champion. He snatched the title from Sonny Liston in the seventh round of a “David and Goliath” match in Miami Beach, Florida. The odds were against Clay; Liston was the 8 to 1 favorite, but that didn’t faze the cocky challenger who predicted his victory in the eighth round, bragging that he would “float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.”

It took him six rounds to win the title in the seventh, when Liston conceded defeat.

Young people might not “recognize” Cassius Clay; that’s because he became “Muhammad Ali”, after he joined the African American Muslim group, the Nation of Islam.

The Website Quora calls Ali “the greatest boxer ever,” having won 56 out of his 61 bouts during his 20-year career that ended abruptly in 1984 when he was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease. He has been called one of the most significant and celebrated figures of the 20th century and one of the greatest boxers of all time. Indeed, as President George W. Bush put it when he presented Ali with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in November of 2005, “Only a few athletes are ever known as the greatest in their sport, or in their time. But when you say, ‘The Greatest of All Time’ is in the room, everyone knows who you mean.”

Muhammad Ali, boxer, activist, entertainer and philanthropist, passed away on June 3, 2016.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends “The Greatest: Muhammad Ali” by Walter Dean Myers.

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ALLEN from page 1

in the Netherlands, the 25-year-old woman betrayed them as they crossed into the farming hamlet of Maarle, Belgium on July 18, 1944. Both airmen had fresh papers, so new in fact, that they had no time to memorize their new identities. It is not known if she received any blood money, but the going rate from the Nazi’s was 10,000 Belgian francs for each man, or using gold conversion: \$87,255 in 2020.

THE MISSION

Everett and Billy Davis were part of the B-24 Liberator crew named, “Shoo-Shoo Baby.” The crew had been together since training back in the United States, and this was Everett’s 13th mission since D-Day. On June 29, at the pre-flight briefing, the commanding officer reminded all about the importance of keeping the parachute handy, a comment which Everett thought unusual, but fortunate, as it was the crew’s second run into Germany.

Their mission was a daylight bombing raid to the Junkers (JU-88) serial fuselage production facility at Aschersleben, Germany. That factory’s destruction had proved elusive, as this was the seventh attack by allied bombers since 1942.

During the bombing run, the aircraft was struck by flak damaging all four of its engines and ailerons. In an attempt to bring the stricken craft closer to home, the pilot signaled bail out as they reached the Netherlands. At about 11:15 am, Everett and five of the crew of 10 jumped from 11,000 feet. Fortunately, the lighter load helped the craft get closer to allied lines allowing the remaining four to bail out.

The plane was set on a straight path to crash, but witnesses say the plane turned 180 degrees crashing into two barns in Prosper polder, at Zorgdijk, Netherlands, killing farmer Gerardus Staes, his wife, Clementia, and, daughter, Maria.

An eerie calm existed as both sergeants Everett Allen and Davis talked, or rather chatted with each other, floating thousands of feet about the earth. “...these Army Airmen were descending to earth in what could only be described as serene peace—if there hadn’t been a war going on.” (Griffing May 2, 2016)

ESCAPE AND EVASION

The group of six parachuted outside the village of Vollenhove, Holland, near the Zuiderzee drifting into various fields of wheat. Everett and Billy Jo were met by a 10-year-old boy, and eventually, farmers appeared to the others telling each to stay put until dark when they would return with clothing. As each man was gathered up, they were taken to different houses where new identities were given. This act ushered the men into the world of the Dutch resistance.

From Vollenhove, to Meppel, and to Amsterdam during the ensuing days and weeks, the crew entered safe house after safe house crisscrossing the Netherlands.

Crew-member Billy Owen said, “I was in for quite a surprise when I reached the station. I was walking around on the platform and noticed other young men walking around. They were all wearing civilian clothes, and one of them looked familiar. On closer look I recognized him as Billy Joe Davis, the waist gunner on our plane. I started looking closer at the other men as I walked and noticed that Edward S. Allen, tail gunner; Frank Peichoto, ball gunner; and



Courtesy photos
 Everett S. Allen and fellow soldiers at the Otten family home in 1944 from the personal collection of Everett S. Allen. Otten Family. July 1944 (Colorized 2020).

Carry Rawls, top turret gunner; were also there. [Note: Davis and Rawls were actually captured upon landing.] All five of us had made it to the ground safely and were picked up by the underground. We couldn’t stop and greet each other but it was a wonderful feeling to be together again and we would smile as we walked past one another.” (Scorza 2020)

Later, while on a train, Everett and crew helplessly witnessed U.S. captured servicemen being transported to German P.O.W camps.

One lengthy stop at Erp from July 7 to the 10, was at the house of Harrie Otten who along with his sisters, Antionette, Thea and his brother, Gerard, were a major cog in the underground. They safeguarded 51 allied flyers including 40 American airmen from the enemy. Using hidden rooms, each arriving airman was greeted with pajamas on their bed, hence referred to as the Pajama House. Here and in all the other safe houses, the airmen were well fed and well rested. The Dutch not only put their own freedom and safety at risk, but they gave most of their food and rations to the airmen. Airmen, dressed in casual clothing of the day, even had their pictures taken with them. They also noted their personal data, thoughts of their stay and drawings or poems (de SWART 2011, 21-27). Imagine this additional risk for the Ottens! The resistance provided the airmen with assumed identities, passports, and papers.

After the war, Harrie Otten and family were recognized for their heroic efforts. In particular, Otten was awarded the Medal of Freedom with Silver Palms by the United States at a ceremony at the Hague on Sept. 4, 1946, and on July 8, 1948 was presented with the Honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire by King George VI of Great Britain (Fulford-Brown 2020), plus other high honors from France and Belgium.

The next underground connection came to the Otten house, on July 8, 1944, to bring the group further along the line. They were to make their way back to the allied lines which were coming closer as the invasion progressed. However, both Everett and Billy had climbed up into a cherry tree in the backyard picking the fruit. When they came down, much to their surprise and disappointment, they realized that two members of their group, 2nd Lt. John Fullerton and Sgt. Frank Piechoto had both been whisked away by the underground. Those two eventually made their way back to allied lines but not until November. Both stayed with in the underground, hiding in field

haystacks for days, until freed by British troops in Kelpen, Holland. (Fullerton 1944)

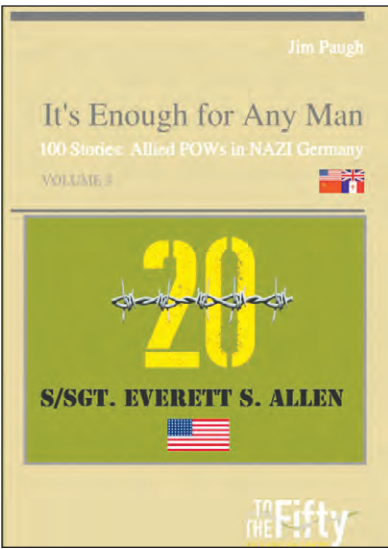
Everett and Billy Davis were sent onto other safe houses where, eventually, they were sent across the border into Belgium. Normal resistance operatives would always walk or bike ahead of the escaping airmen in order to help disguise the activities. Airmen could watch any German questioning of the Dutch resistance at a distance and detour accordingly. This provided safety for both groups. But for Everett and Billy as they sat on the side of the road enjoying a smoke, resistance operative, now turned collaborator, flagged down a German sidecar and told the soldiers about her bounty. They turned around and came back with a truck to bring them in for questioning. Soon the resistance learned that two of their three escape lines had been compromised by collaborators. As a footnote, the woman who turned both Everett and Billy and 24 other airmen over to the Germans, was tried as a Nazi collaborator after the war and spent 15 years in jail. Shortly after her release she was murdered by members of the Underground. The political speech of the day used the expression that “there was no place left for those who had betrayed their country.” (Huysen JAN 2006)

CAPTURED – P.O.W.

Once captured, they were taken to Turnhout and then onto Dulag Luft Oberusel for a very intense period of interrogation. Then moved onto an office on the fifth floor of a building in Antwerp where Gestapo interrogation began. Interrogation continued as Everett and Billy Jo were moved about the German P.O.W. system both by train and boat down the Rhine River. Thankfully, the German guards protected Everett and others from the irate German population who saw the airmen as Terrorflieger.

They traveled for two weeks finally arriving at Dulag Luft Transient Camp on July 29, remaining there until Aug. 10.

The Luftwaffe gave every P.O.W. a bible distributed by the Red Cross. This gift provided amazing strength and comfort to the men. They will need that strength as here begins the de-humanizing treatment. They were once again on the move, by train in livestock cars with 40 men, manacled two by two to their final destination. Both train and boat offered no sanitary options and men ended relieving themselves where they stood. They arrived on Aug. 14, 1944, at Stalag Luft IV in Gross Tychow, Germany, now Tychowo, Poland.



The cover planned for author James J. Paugh III’s book, “It’s Enough for Any Man, 100 Stories: Allies POW’s in NAZI Germany.” It includes a chapter on West Brookfield resident, Everett Allen.

Upon arrival at the Kiefheid rail station in modern day Podborsko, Poland, the prisoners were marched to Stalag Luft 4 about 2.75 kilometers away. However, other P.O.W. groups arriving waited in the boxcar through the night. Then, at 6 a.m. the next morning, they were brought out into the open, doubled-shackled and began a double-time march to the camp to run a gauntlet of guard dogs, bayonets and/or beatings. Many a stumbled kriegie received vicious dog bites or worse bayoneted.

According to a report by the International Red Cross, a group of 800 British P.O.W.’s arrived with 77 wounded by bayonet points, eight bitten by dogs and 29 received wounds from blows from the guards. Dr. Leslie Caplan, a flight surgeon, captured Oct. 13, and sent to Stalag Luft 4 on Nov. 28, was known as the Allied Medical Officer at the Camp Hospital. German camp authorities would put in requests for health specialists to be transferred from other camps.

Caplan saw the healed wounds on legs of various men who had been severely bitten by the guard dogs. Twenty men had to be hospitalized, but many bayoneted men were not due to the limited facilities. In his testimony for the War Crimes Office, Civil Affairs Division on Dec. 31, 1947, he said: “Captain Pickhardt, the officer in charge of the guards, is said to have incited the guards by telling them that American Airmen were gangsters who received a bonus for bombing German children and women. (Caplan 1947)” As was later learned, the gauntlet was to antagonize the prisoners to flee where armed guards hidden in the woods would open fire upon them all.

Opened in May 1944, Stalag Luft 4 was specifically for non-commissioned Air Force officers and housed British, U.S. and Russians in four separate compounds called lagers. And after the tunneling experiences at other camps, the Germans built these camp barracks using post and piers. Each lager contained 10 barracks with each barracks housing between 219 and 250 men or approximately 2,500 men per lager and 10,000 for the entire camp. All four lagers were the same size, about 375,000 square feet or about two football fields wide by two and a half football fields long. The total perimeter distanced was about a half-mile long.

Stalag Luft IV, Lager C had two outside pump wells for washing and drinking water and two cement lined latrine pits that had to be pumped out by a schweißwagen using Russian laborers. The waste was spread out over an adjoining field. As time in the camp progressed and despite the potable water, nearly the entire population contracted lice, bed bugs and dysentery. All P.O.W.’s lost significant amounts of weight. Barrack rooms were not heated, which forced many to sleep side by side to share body heat and only hastened the spread of disease.

The guards for this camp were mostly older men, not front-line soldiers. One guard, Hans Schmidt, nicknamed Big Stoop after the 1940s Terry and the Pirates comic strip character, in particular was feared and despised by the P.O.W.s. He is described in various war-time diaries in size ranging from six feet, four inches to seven feet tall. His trademark hand cuff of the ears punctured many an ear drum. With his larger than life hands, he would come up behind the prisoner and forcefully clap his hand over the ears... the air pressure causing damage. Big Stoop met an unseemly end upon liberation. While Everett did his best to steer clear of him, he still had encounters with the



A sketch of Stalag Luft 4 in Poland, where Everett Allen was held during World War II by German soldiers.

guards. As he said, “Scared, you bet I was scared! You got used to getting knocked down and knocked around by the German guards, but you never knew just what was in store when you hit the ground.” (GOULD 2001)

But mostly, all days become a blur of sameness. Everett was placed in Lager C, Barracks 2, Room 13 along with 21 other men, however, the camp was not yet completed, and the men slept on the floor on scattered hay. Rooms were 15 feet by 23 feet, eventually having bunks built with tables and benches added.

For Everett, this was an education in itself: 22 men from different denominations, all sergeants used to being in charge, now all learning to live with one another. For the first few months until the books and reading materials came, there was not much to do, so Everett and many others began to walk the half-mile perimeter of the camp. Normally, it was solitary as each man kept to his own thoughts as to how to handle the situation. Walking turned out to be a valued activity as the additional stamina will prove helpful in the months to come.

The one book, that most had, and that Everett relied upon was the bible. As he was seen reading the bible, one of the biggest guys of the barracks, Sgt Danny Rackov, of Detroit, came over and asked if he could join him in discussing the scripture. That started a group of men that would meet regularly each taking turns to join. In situations such as this, it’s been called, Sacred Armor (SOENKE and LANDAU 2013), using religion as a guard against anxiety and the unknown. Seventy-five years later, Everett can recite Psalm 97 from memory:

“The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

Clouds and thick darkness are round about Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.”

Tech Sgt. Frank Paules, the highly respected Man of Confidence for the camp, said: “after they came in and told me that they would send me over to the Gestapo I, uh, my father was a Lutheran minister and I remembered something that he said a number of times in his sermons, if you’re in real trouble or danger, don’t ask for it to be removed; ask for the courage to face it. And I went to sleep and the next morning I just went out and I wasn’t afraid.” (PAULES 1990)

Everett’s bible, always found in his breast shirt pocket, showcases the names of the men who joined the group.

And he continued to walk and walk the perimeter of the camp.

With plenty of time on their hands, Everett busied himself by visiting all the barracks of Lager C and collecting the names of all the Massachusetts men. He collected 226 names in all. He also drew pictures of camp life depicting the conditions, of memories of home and a collection of drawn dog tags listing names of people who were particularly close to him. The non-existent paper supplies came from the back of cigarette packages; once emptied, the package was unraveled and laid flat. Everett still has many of them in his personal collection. Of note, he included the dog tag drawing of this author’s friend who lost his father in the late sixties. He and Everett were introduced to each other 75 years after meeting of his father and Everett.

One other task that Everett did was to take over the clothing inventory. Every P.O.W. in Lager C was listed in an inventory book that categorized hats, jackets, scarfs, shoes, belts, and the like. It was to act as a way to rob “Peter to pay Paul” should someone need clothing for various reasons. Everett’s memorabilia consist of a 38-page booklet of that inventory. The most needed items were socks and undergarments.

And he continued to walk and walk the perimeter of the camp.

Daily food rations consisted of hot water or an ersatz coffee, watery potato or Kohlrabi soup, or dehydrated sauerkraut and pieces of 2-inch-thick black bread and

margarine.

” This recipe comes from the official record of the Food Providing Ministry, which was published in Berlin, on 24 November 1941 (Top Secret) by the Directors in Ministry Herr Mansfeld and Herr Moritz. (Lang 2015)

50% bruised rye grains,
20% sliced sugar beets,
20% tree flour (saw dust*) and
10% minced leaves and straw”
(Lang 2015)

Many a P.O.W. thought the concoction was more saw dust than anything. Slicing it thin made it somewhat digestible. Red Cross parcels of liver spread pate, SPAM, corned beef, Kraft American cheese, powdered milk (called KLIM), schimmels (or moldy) jam, Nescafe soluble coffee, prunes or raisins, crackers, a small piece of cheese, a pack of cigarettes and a candy bar called, a D Bar (a semi-sweet chocolate bar) were provided every week or so. However, many items in packages were pilfered by the German guards leaving the prisoners with roughly half of what was sent. As time progressed into 1945, the meals and Red Cross parcels became more and more sparse. In a postwar deposition, Capt. Henry J. Wynsen, who also served in a medical capacity at the camp, estimated each man received about 1,200 daily calories from all food sources. (Wynsen n.d.)

It is known that in all the prisoner of war camps there was a cigarette economy and Everett did his best to earn his share of cigarette income. Finding a need in his barracks, he became the barber and was able to be rather well-off charging a couple of cigarettes for the cut. Bartering was also rampant, particularly with the Red Cross packages, and the candy bar being one of the most traded items. The D Bar was semi-sweet, contained oat flour, and hard as rock. It was not at all what one would expect...even today, it is a taste to which one has to become accustomed or as the captain involved in the production process said, it should taste “just a little better than a boiled potato” (HERSHEY FOUNDATION, INC. 2018).

And he continued to walk and walk the perimeter of the camp.

Perhaps, the one bright spot was the Red Cross Christmas Parcel in 1944. Each man received the full parcel that included, plum pudding, Chef Paulins Turkey, Royal Anne (or sweet) Cherries, Wrigley gum, Kemps salted mixed nuts, fruit bars, pipe and pipe tobacco, playing cards and a Currier and Ives print, a reminder of home.

Everett and the other prisoners were dreaming of home and looking forward to war’s end as the sound of Russian bombardments could be heard almost daily. It could only be a matter of time for liberation.

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Canterbury Tails is a full service Veterinary Clinic providing the highest standard of care to Ware and its surrounding communities. Our clinic is currently accepting new patients. We provide care to dogs, cats and most exotic animals, pocket pets and rabbits. It is our goal to provide a fear free, positive visit for our patients and their owners. We are looking forward to meeting you and your pet.



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Aidyn Welsh celebrates her 1,000th point achievement.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Welsh hits 1,000-point milestone

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE—When Aidyn Welsh walks into the Ware High School gymnasium in the coming years, she will always remember the evening of Feb. 11 with fond memories.

On that night, Welsh, who's a senior guard, became the seventh member of the Lady Indians basketball team and the 11th basketball player in school history to score 1,000 career points.

"It was definitely nice to have my whole family at tonight's game," said Welsh, who entered the home game with Amherst 13 points away from reaching the elite milestone. "My grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins haven't

been able to come watch any of my games this year. Having them here made it extra special for me. I couldn't be more thankful to attend a high school where they really support their athletes."

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, only parents of the Ware basketball players can attend home games. A few of Welsh's teammates did give her their tickets for the Amherst game.

"My teammates are like family to me," Welsh said. "I just want to thank them for giving me their tickets to tonight's game, so my relatives could be here."

Welsh, who joined the varsity basketball team as an eighth grader, has helped the girls' basketball



Aidyn Welsh unveils the updated 1,000-point banner with her name on it.



Aidyn Welsh in action last Thursday against Amherst. She scored her 1,000th career point in the third quarter of the game.

Vigeant looks to make his Tri Track mark in 2021

SEEKONK – Kurt Vigeant will look to make his mark in the Tri Track Open Modified Series in 2021. The driver of the familiar white and orange No. 7 is set to compete in all of the races in the new season and hopes to continue to make gains into the top 10 as part of one of the most competitive fields in Modified racing.

Vigeant, who has been involved in racing since the age of 12, broke into the sport with AMA Motocross and became the Grand National Champion. He continued into the Pro 4 Modifieds, where he went to Victory Lane, then became a two-time champion at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park in their Modified division. All of this experience drove his interest to move into the Tour-Type Modifieds, where he runs today, specifically with Tri Track. He's hoping to make gains on his previous efforts during the 2021 season.

"When I started in these types of Modifieds we ran a few races, then totaled the car and it took two years to fix it because we didn't have the funds," Vigeant said. "I enjoy the schedule that Tri Track has with the bullring tracks. I don't think anyone is content where they are running, until you are on the top."

Vigeant is no stranger to the
VIGEANT | page 8

Panthers grab win on 'Senior Day'

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE — Winning a game on Senior Day is always extra special. Just ask the seven Quabbin boys basketball seniors.

The Panthers were able to celebrate a 62-45 senior day victory over the Narragansett Warriors, last Saturday afternoon.

"A rewarding experience for all of our coaching staff to honor and recognize the seven seniors," said Quabbin head coach Dennis Dextradeur. "They have endured and persevered through a mosaic of a pandemic season and that determination and effort should be applauded. Not only has that been quite an achievement but they have had a very successful season on the court as well. When you have the opportunity to coach and teach these young men you realize, as I always have, that it is indeed about the trust and relationships you build."

The home victory pushed Quabbin's season record over the .500 mark at 5-4. After winning their first three games of the delayed season, the Panthers lost four straight games. They ended their losing skid with a 56-44 home win against Leominster, last Thursday night. The 62 points that the Panthers scored against the Warriors is a season high.

The seven Panthers seniors, who were honored in a ceremony held prior to the start of the Narragansett game, are Nick Farrell, Ryan Kowal, Devin Pride, Jake Sherblom, Brendan Whitelaw, Ryan Wagner, and Shea

Skowrya.

Whitelaw, who had 6 points, 6 assists, and 8 rebounds on senior day, along with Skowrya, who posted a double-double with a game-high 17 points and 12 rebounds, are the Panthers co-captains this winter.

"Shea Skowrya and Brendan Whitelaw have been exceptional captains in the leadership and counsel they have provided our entire team and program," Dextradeur said. "Both are everything you would want in desirable peer models for our younger players and I'm sure parents are as happy as we are having them lead the program because to become a good leader you must have first been a good follower. Both have the skills to take their game to the next level and it will be fun watching them develop beyond their high school years."

The Panthers other three starters on senior day were Kowal (7 points, 6 rebounds), Sherblom (2 steals), and Pride (10 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals).

"Ryan Kowal and Devin Pride have really excelled this year on the court," Dextradeur said. "Every one of our players and staff admires the enthusiasm and perseverance that Jake Sherblom brings every day. Statistics will never measure that contribution but every game he meant everything to our success for being the supreme teammate. He has been with our program for as long as I can remember."

Farrell was credited with two rebounds. Wagner scored 2 points and had 3 steals.

"Nick Farrell is one of the most respected and listened to student-athletes I have observed over my 41 years," Dextradeur said. "He is a remarkable young man who performed one of the most selfless acts you'll ever witness when he volunteered to play minutes on the young JV team that needed to learn poise, focus, discipline and the pursuit of excellence. Ryan Wagner is a superb all-around athlete and we call him 'nails' for the toughness he brings our team. He is as tough as nails and as fun to coach as any players I've had. No doubt he changed momentum in our favor when we needed it."

Junior Connor Geary chipped in with 16 points in the first meeting of the season against Narragansett (1-7).

It was a homecoming game for Narragansett head coach Rich Zalneraitis, who's a former assistant coach for the Panthers boys' varsity basketball team. He's also a teacher at Quabbin Regional.

"I've been a part of the fabric of the Quabbin community for much of my life - student, then coach and teacher," Zalneraitis said. "I love the school and especially the students that I see every day. They always want to beat us, and we always want to beat them."

Zalneraitis, who graduated from Quabbin Regional in 1982, was inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011. His wife, Shelly, is the longtime Quabbin field hockey coach.

The Warriors, who made

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Darren Wawro goes for a shot ahead of a block.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Austin Lagimoniere shoots a layup.



Jordan Talbot holds the ball before moving it around the arc.



PALMER – After a long lay-off, the Pathfinder High School boys basketball team finally got a chance to take the court in the winter season. Last Friday night, the Pioneers defeated Hampden Charter School of Science 65-41. The Pioneers are scheduled for several games through the end of February before the sports season shifts to football.

Nick Beaulieu attempts to shoot before being blocked.

MIAA hoping for successful Fall 2 season

FRANKLIN – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) COVID-19 Task Force representatives presented Fall II Season sport modifications and recommendations today for the 2020-2021 year to the MIAA Board of Directors.

This presentation culminated the MIAA governance process which included sport-specific sub-committee meetings where current Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary (DESE) guidelines were reviewed. Sport sub-committees created or updated sport specific modifications, presented them for approval to the full sport committee and then presented, for approval, to the MIAA Sports Medicine Committee (SMC). The MIAA Covid-19 Task force subsequently reviewed and approved the modifications.

MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine stated, "Today's actions by the MIAA's Board of Directors

are the culmination of the work of our membership committed to establishing optimal standards of health and safety that will provide the restoration of Fall sports for 1000s of MIAA student-athletes."

The MIAA Board of Directors voted to approve sport-specific modifications for the Fall II Season. These modifications will continue to be reviewed as they relate to current regulations surrounding COVID-19 and may be modified if necessary. Additional modifications or the decision to participate in MIAA-recognized Fall II sports will be determined by local school districts and/or their local Boards of Health. You may view the Task Force presentation HERE.

MIAA President Jeffrey Granatino said, "We made adjustments in the fall and had a success first season. We made additional modifications for the winter and our student-athletes have been actively engaged since

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public safety

Warren Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 7
10:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Central Street – Citation Issued

Tuesday, Feb. 9
11:55 a.m. Vandalism Winthrop Terrace – Officer Spoke to Party
6:42 p.m. Sick/Unknown Winthrop Terrace – Ambulance Signed Refusal
10:49 p.m. Sick/Unknown Winthrop Terrace – Ambulance Signed Refusal

Wednesday, Feb. 10
11:31 a.m. Larceny/Theft Main Street – Report Filed
3:23 p.m. Harassing/Annoying Phone Calls River Street – Officer Spoke to Party
4:29 p.m. Fraud/Forgery East Road – Report Filed
8:40 p.m. Breathing Difficulty Winthrop Terrace – Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Feb. 11
12:30 p.m. Assault/Sex Assault Summer Street – Officer Spoke to Party
A 58-year-old Warren man was summonsed on the following charges
Assault and Battery; Accost/Annoy Another Person; Disorderly Conduct
12:37 p.m. Complaint Main Street – Information Given
3:11 p.m. Falls Old West Warren Road – Transported to Hospital

Friday, Feb. 12
12:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision Main Street – Area Search Negative
2:46 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope Main Street – Transported to Hospital
2:57 p.m. Sick/Unknown Bemis Road – Referred to Other Agency
6:17 p.m. Parking Violation Crouch Road – Parking Citation Issued
10:17 p.m. Animal Bite Summer Street – Returned to

Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.

Family/Guardian
11:19 p.m. Unwanted Party Independence Lane – Peace Restored

Saturday, Feb. 13
4:28 a.m. Parking Violation North Street – Citation Issued
9:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Feb. 1-8, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 49 building/property checks, 20 directed/area patrols, 10 radar assignments, nine traffic controls, seven emergency 911 calls, one scam, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, one hazardous incident and 11 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Feb. 1
1:36 p.m. Phone – Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting Broad Street – Spoken To
4:57 p.m. Phone – Medical Alarm Highland Terrace – Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Feb. 2
3:07 a.m. 911 – Utility Issues Lower Road – Services Rendered
11:08 a.m. 911 – Lockout Church Lane – Checked/Secured
4:01 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
6:49 p.m. Phone – 911 Misdia

Wednesday, Feb. 3
7:20 a.m. Phone – Hazardous Incident Barre Road – Investigated
10:43 a.m. Phone – Scam Barre Road – Spoken To
10:55 a.m. 911 – Suspicious Activity High Street – Spoken To
10:59 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Barre Road – Transported to Hospital
3:59 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Upper Church Street – Citation Issued

Thursday, Feb. 4
7:38 a.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Vehicle Towed
9:48 a.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Petersham Road – Written Warning
10:21 a.m. Phone – Welfare Check Church Lane – Transported to Hospital

Friday, Feb. 5
8:29 a.m. 911 – Lockout Main Street – Services Rendered
11:13 a.m. Radio – Medical Emergency Main Street – Call Canceled
3:46 p.m. Initiated – Investigation Hardwick Road – Spoken To
11:16 p.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Church Lane – Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Sunday, Feb. 7
2 a.m. Phone – Medical Emergency Hardwick Road – Transported to Hospital
7:03 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Prouty Road – Transported to Hospital
8:40 a.m. 911 – Unattended Death Goddard Road – Investigated

Old Petersham Road – Officer Handled
9:53 p.m. Phone – Serve Warrant Lower Road – Arrest(s) Made

Friday, Feb. 5
8:29 a.m. 911 – Lockout Main Street – Services Rendered
11:13 a.m. Radio – Medical Emergency Main Street – Call Canceled
3:46 p.m. Initiated – Investigation Hardwick Road – Spoken To
11:16 p.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Church Lane – Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Sunday, Feb. 7
2 a.m. Phone – Medical Emergency Hardwick Road – Transported to Hospital
7:03 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Prouty Road – Transported to Hospital
8:40 a.m. 911 – Unattended Death Goddard Road – Investigated

New Braintree Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 7
10:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Central Street – Citation Issued

Tuesday, Feb. 9
11:55 a.m. Vandalism Winthrop Terrace – Officer Spoke to Party
6:42 p.m. Sick/Unknown Winthrop Terrace – Ambulance Signed Refusal
10:49 p.m. Sick/Unknown Winthrop Terrace – Ambulance Signed Refusal

Wednesday, Feb. 10
11:31 a.m. Larceny/Theft Main Street – Report Filed
3:23 p.m. Harassing/Annoying Phone Calls River Street – Officer Spoke to Party
4:29 p.m. Fraud/Forgery East Road – Report Filed
8:40 p.m. Breathing Difficulty

Winthrop Terrace – Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Feb. 11
12:30 p.m. Assault/Sex Assault Summer Street – Officer Spoke to Party
A 58-year-old Warren man was summonsed on the following charges
Assault and Battery; Accost/Annoy Another Person; Disorderly Conduct
12:37 p.m. Complaint Main Street – Information Given
3:11 p.m. Falls Old West Warren Road – Transported to Hospital

Friday, Feb. 12
12:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision Main Street – Area Search Negative

Cornerstone Bank promotes Kerri Lee and Katelyn Krikorian

SOUTHBRIDGE – Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout central Massachusetts, has recently promoted Kerri Lee to associate vice president, loan production manager, and Katelyn Krikorian to associate vice president, operations manager. Both have more than 15 years of experience in banking and lending.

Lee, a resident of Holland, joined Southbridge Savings Bank in November of 2013 as a senior loan Pprocessor. When Southbridge Savings Bank and SpencerBANK merged to form Cornerstone Bank in 2016, she held a team lead position before becoming loan production manager. She has worked closely with the loan production and operations teams to facilitate home loan closings that meet customer expectations.

“My focus is and always has been the customers and their experience with us,” said Lee. “My time with Cornerstone Bank has allowed me to learn and grow in the mortgage lending industry. I am excited to see what I can do in this new role to continue to make our customers happy.”

Katelyn Krikorian, a resident of Southbridge, started as an operations clerk in 2004 and worked her way up to team leader, then to assistant operations manager and finally to operations manager. Krikorian has also held the chairman position with the ARC Committee, and was afforded the opportunity to be involved in a variety of fundraisers benefiting the community.

“I am thankful for the guidance I’ve had along the way, allowing me to mature in my roles and leading me to all the opportunities Cornerstone Bank has given me,” said Krikorian. “I look forward to being a part of Cornerstone’s future,

continuing to help not only our customers but the people of our communities as well.”

“We’re very proud to have Kerri and Katelyn on our team,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “These are the people that are the backbone of Cornerstone Bank and they deserve their success.”

Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving residents, businesses and communities throughout Central Massachusetts. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender and SBA Preferred Lender. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

campus notes

STCC announces fall 2020 dean’s list

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College announces 834 students were named to the fall 2020 dean’s list. They include Matthew Michael Beland and Karsyn Hannah Kirby, of Brookfield; Michael William Casey, of East Brookfield; and Jonathan J. Fitchet, of Sturbridge;

The dean’s list is published each semester to recognize excellence in academic performance. To be considered, degree-seeking students must earn 12 or more college level credits in the current semester, or a total of 12 or more combined college-level credits

earned during the fall and spring semesters, and achieve a 3.3 or above grade point average.

Interested in applying to STCC? Visit stcc.edu/apply or call Admissions at (413) 755-3333.

About Springfield Technical Community College

STCC, the commonwealth’s only technical community college, continues the pioneering legacy of the Springfield Armory with comprehensive and technical education in manufacturing, STEM, healthcare, business, social services, and the liberal arts. STCC’s highly-regarded workforce, certificate, degree, and transfer programs are the most affordable in Springfield and provide unequalled opportunity for the vitality of Western Massachusetts. Founded in 1967, the college, a designated Hispanic Serving Institution, seeks to close achievement gaps among students who traditionally face societal barriers. STCC supports students as they transform their lives through intellectual, cultural, and economic engagement while becoming thoughtful, committed and socially responsible graduates.

Local students named to UMass Lowell dean’s list

LOWELL – Riley Mann, of Gilbertville, and Stephen Houle, of Ware, have been recognized for achieving academic distinction at the University of Massachusetts Lowell Mann, majoring in business administration, was named to the dean’s list at UMass Lowell for the fall 2020 semester, as was Houle, who is majoring in criminal justice.

UMass Lowell is a national research university offering its more than 18,000 students bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in business, education, engineering, fine arts, health, humanities, sciences and social sciences. UMass Lowell delivers high-quality educational programs and personal attention from leading faculty and staff, all of which prepare graduates to be leaders in their communities and around the globe. For more information go online to www.uml.edu.

Two local students named to Worcester State’s dean’s list

WORCESTER – Sarah R. Flynn and Hannah E. Regin, both of Hardwick, have been named to the Worcester State University dean’s list for fall 2020. Dean’s list honors are awarded to matriculated undergraduate students who have earned a 3.5 GPA or higher. Full-time students must have earned a minimum of 12 credits and part-time students must have earned a minimum of 6 credits.

Isabella Clowes named to WPI’s fall dean’s list

WORCESTER -- The criteria for the WPI Dean’s List differs from most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average. Instead, WPI defines the dean’s list by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

Isabella Clowes, of Warren, who is majoring in environmental engineering, was named to the dean’s list for the fall 2020 semester.

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems.WPI offers more than 50 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 14 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. For more information go online to www.wpi.edu.

Nancy Curtis Scholarship available

WARE – Applications are now available for the Nancy Curtis Scholarship in the Ware, Palmer, and Belchertown Public Schools Guidance Department. Deadline for completion of the application is April 5, and should be forwarded to Mrs. Sandra Piechota, 269 Palmer Rd., Ware, MA 01082.

Are you feeling the “pressure?”

SPRINGFIELD – Feeling the pressure?

Approximately one in three or more than 100 million American adults have high blood pressure and only about one in four of those individuals has their hypertension under control.

Why?

“We call hypertension the ‘silent killer’ because many people may have no symptoms and believe that they are healthy, when they are really at an increased risk for heart disease, heart failure and other related illnesses. And you may not have any symptoms until serious damage has been done to your internal organs including not only your heart but your brain, kidneys and eyes,” said Gina Zichittella, a certified nurse practitioner at Baystate Cardiology in Palmer.

“That’s why early detection is so important, so that you and your primary care physician can develop a plan to bring your blood pressure down. And that’s also why it is important to visit your doctor regularly and to not miss any scheduled appointments,” she added.

The good news is that, in most cases, you can manage your blood pressure to lower your risk for serious health problems.

High blood pressure affects everyone. According to the American Heart Association, many people develop high blood pressure when they are in their late 30s or early 40s, and it occurs more frequently as people age. Nearly half of all adults with high blood pressure are women, and at age 65 and older women are more likely than men to get high blood pressure. The prevalence of high blood pressure in African-Americans in the U.S. is among the highest in the world, more than 40% of non-Hispanic African-American men and women have high blood pressure. For African-Americans, high blood pressure also develops earlier in life and is usually more severe.

“We have been seeing for quite a while now more younger adults and children developing high blood pressure as a result of our unhealthy lifestyles resulting in a rise in obesity,” said Zichittella.

One interesting note, blood pressure varies by geography and Massachusetts is among some 10 states to have the lowest prevalence of hypertension.

February is American Heart Month and a time when all people can focus on their cardiovascular health. The Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention is shining a light this year on high blood pressure, a leading risk factor for heart disease and stroke, which are the first and fifth leading causes of death in the United States, respectively.

The Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Control Hypertension call to action has recognized the serious need to control blood pressure and seeks to avert the negative health effects of hypertension by identifying evidence-based interventions that can be implemented, adapted, and expanded in diverse settings across the United States.

Blood pressure is the pressure of blood pushing against the walls of your arteries. Arteries carry blood from your heart to other parts of your body. Your blood pressure normally rises and falls through the day.

Blood pressure is measured using two numbers. The first, called systolic blood pressure, measures the pressure in your arteries when your heart beats. The second number, called diastolic blood pressure, measures the pressure in your arteries when your heart rests between beats. For example, if the measurement reads 120 systolic and 80 diastolic, you would say, “120 over 80” or write, “120/80Hg.”

The American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association consider high blood pressure to be 130 systolic or higher and 80 diastolic or higher. Blood pressure is considered

“elevated” if it is in the range of 120-129 systolic and less than 80 diastolic.

High blood pressure can damage your arteries by making them less elastic, which decreases the flow of blood and oxygen to your heart and leads to heart disease. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevent notes that decreased blood flow to the heart can cause:

Chest pain, also called angina. Heart attack, which happens when the blood supply to your heart is blocked and heart muscle begins to die without enough oxygen. The longer the blood flow is blocked, the greater the damage to the heart.

Heart failure, a condition that means your heart can’t pump enough blood and oxygen to your other organs.

Many people with high blood pressure can lower their blood pressure into a healthy range or keep their numbers in a healthy range by making lifestyle changes. Zichittella and the CDC recommend talking to your healthcare team about the following lifestyle changes to help control your blood pressure:

Getting at least 150 minutes of physical activity each week (about 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week)
Not smoking
Eating a healthy diet, including limiting sodium (salt) and alcohol
Keeping a healthy weight
Managing stress.

But sometimes lifestyle changes are not enough and many people need to take medicine in addition to making lifestyle changes.

“Remember that monitoring your blood pressure with the support of your healthcare team can help lower your risk for heart disease and stroke. You can check your blood pressure at your doctor’s office, at a pharmacy, or even at home,” said Zichittella.

For more information on Baystate Health’s life-saving cardiac capabilities, visit baystate-health.org/heart.

Obituaries

Ware River News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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Ware River News

Death notices

Beauregard, Marlene T.

Died: Feb. 10, 2021
Funeral Mass Feb. 16
All Saints Church
Ware

Graham, Lillian P.

Died: Feb. 6, 2021
Services are private

Robinson, Robert J.

Died: Feb. 7, 2021
Services are private

Sullivan, Laura D.

Died: Feb. 12, 2021
Funeral Mass Feb. 18, 10 a.m.
St. Mary's Church
Ware

Marlene T. Beauregard

WARE – Marlene T. (Gibbs) Beauregard, 86, of Ware, died on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021, at The Overlook Masonic Home in Charlton.

She leaves her sons, Roger Mark Beauregard, Paul J. Beauregard and his wife, Michele, and Dennis M. Beauregard and his wife, Lisa, all of West Brookfield, her daughter-in-law, Lisa Beauregard, of Litchfield, N.H., nine grandchildren, Daniel and his wife, Lisa, Timothy, and his wife, Erin, Nikki Aird and her husband, Lewis, James, and his wife, Heather, William and his wife, Stephanie, Robert, Renee Lute, and her husband, Zachary, and Michael, and his wife, Nancy; 14 great-grandchildren and two nieces. Marlene was predeceased by her hus-

band, Roger J. Beauregard, in 2012, and a son, Robert J. Beauregard, in 2001. She is also predeceased by her three sisters and her brother. She was born in Ware, daughter of the late Leo W. and Anna (Magnan) Gibbs, and was a lifelong resident of Ware.

Marlene was a homemaker, dedicating her life to her family and her church. She also worked at the former Ware Trust Company as a teller and bookkeeper, and later as a clerk at LeMaitre's Pharmacy.

She was a communicant of the former Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and a member of the All Saints Church.

A funeral Mass for Marlene was held on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 11 a.m.,

in the All Saints Church, 17 North St., in Ware. Burial will be held privately in the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery. There are no calling hours and everyone was asked to meet at the church. Masks were required to be worn and social distancing guidelines had to be followed while in the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Shriner's Hospital for Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104 or by visiting <http://shrinershospitalsforchildren.org>.

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware, is assisting her family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at charbonnauefh.com.

Lillian P. Graham

WARE – Lillian attended Palmer grammar schools, and then attended the academy of Mt. St. Vincent in New Rochelle New York, Ursuline Academy in Springfield, Anna Maria College in Paxton Ma. and American International College in Springfield.

She worked for the Ware School System most of her life.

She

is

pre-de-

ceased

by her

par-

ents Dr.

Louis J.

Pereira

Jr. and

Sarah

(Harold)

Pereira.

She is

survived

by her

husband,

Michael P.

Graham,

and sons,

Sean Fogarty

and Michael

Graham, her

grandson,

Aiden Fogarty,

granddaughter,

Madelyn Lorion,

great-granddaughter,

Vada Rose,

and siblings

Jean,

Elizabeth and

Louis.

All services are

private and

handled by

Cebula

Funeral Home

in Ware.



Laura D. Sullivan

WARE – Laura Doris (Santos) Sullivan, age 85, passed away on Friday, Feb. 12, 2021, at Orchard Valley at Wilbraham. Laura was born in Palmer on Sept. 29, 1935, daughter of the late Antonio and Albertina (Chaves) Santos.

She was raised and educated in Palmer, and was a 1953 Palmer High School graduate. Laura was employed for many years as a telephone operator for New England Telephone, and also for the Palmer Public School System, prior to her retirement.

She was a faithful communicant of St. Mary's Church in Ware. Laura was a member of its Holy Rosary Society and a member of its former Ladies Guild. She, along with her late husband, donated much of their time to St. Mary's Rectory and St. Mary's Carnival.

Laura is survived by her loving daughters: Lorrie Rowan, of Palmer, Linde Skowronek, of Belchertown, and Liane Gladkowski, and her husband, John, of Palmer. She also leaves behind her beloved grandchildren: Neil, Stacy, Matthew, Maxwell, Jim and Alex, and four great-grandchil-



dren. Laura also leaves behind her sisters; Carol Drown and Patricia Jusko, her brothers, Walter and George, and many nieces and nephews. Sadly, Laura's beloved husband of 63 years, James P. Sullivan, passed away on Oct. 12, 2019, and she was also predeceased by her siblings: Alfred, Tommy, Tony, Daniel and Joseph, sisters: Irene Lewis, Mary Trybus, Rose Dugay, Lena Johnston and Otilia Santos.

A funeral Mass for Laura will be held on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 10 a.m., in St. Mary's Church, 57 South St. in Ware. Everyone will meet directly in the church on Thursday morning. Masks or face coverings must be worn and social distancing guidelines must be followed while in the church. Private burial will be held in St. Mary's Cemetery in Ware. There are no calling hours.

Memorial contributions may be made in Laura's memory to Orchard Valley at Wilbraham, 2387 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095. For more information and online guest book, please visit www.cebulafuneral-home.com.

Monson Savings Bank hires Caitlin O'Connor

Monson – Monson Savings Bank recently announced the hire of Caitlin O'Connor as vice president and marketing officer of the bank's marketing department.

"Caitlin's extensive background in community bank marketing is incredibly valuable to our customers and our entire team at Monson Savings Bank. She is invested in our customer and community-focused approach as a local bank working to serve the financial needs of our area," said Dan Moriarty, president of Monson Savings Bank. "I know she will be effective in communicating our high quality customer service, our many product and services, and our convenient technology and tools. She is a great fit for the Monson Savings Bank culture and we are



Caitlin O'Connor

happy to have her here." O'Connor resides in North Brookfield with her husband and two sons. In her role as vice president and marketing officer, O'Connor will oversee all aspects of the bank's brand and business line marketing, advertising, public relations and communications efforts. Additionally, she will be responsible for establishing and implementing an effective, innovative and comprehensive marketing plan that aligns with Monson Savings Bank's vision, mission, values and strategic goals.

O'Connor has been in the banking industry for 13 years, and has 17 years of experience within the marketing and design industry. She is a graduate from Mount Ida College in Newton, now a cam-

pus of UMASS Amherst. Prior to joining Monson Savings Bank, she held the role of vice president/marketing manager of North Brookfield Savings Bank.

"I am incredibly happy and proud to join Monson Savings Bank and continue my career with such a great community bank. They have such a positive and elevating employee culture here that really is very special. They genuinely care about the well-being of their customers and the communities they serve and continually prove this through the attention, service and support provided every day," said O'Connor, vice president and marketing officer of Monson Savings Bank. "I look forward to continuing to get to know the Monson Savings Bank team and exploring new ways we can help our customers throughout every life stage of their financial journey."

Tri-Parish Community Church news

NEW BRAINTREE — On Sunday, Feb. 21, the Tri-Parish Community Church welcomes back the Rev. Kathleen Fitzgibbons to give the morning message. She will be assisted by Deacon Marguerite Crevier at 10 a.m. in the New Braintree Congregational Church. The service is open to everyone and all are welcome. Social distancing and masks are required. If anyone requires pastoral help during the week, they may contact a deacon: Ginny Rich, 978-355-4485; Marguerite Crevier, 413-477-6942; or Marjie Wissiup, 508-410-7424.



Calling artists of all kinds

The Pioneer Valley is chock full of creative folks making beautiful, inspiring, unusual art. Expressions of creativity, and the creation of art in all forms is a universal and uniquely human habit. But most art never appears in a gallery or in the media. ValleyBike Share, Rise Dispensary and Common Wealth Murals want to team up to celebrate all Pioneer Valley visual artists and the work they create.

During April and May, 40 ValleyBike kiosks will be converted to display photographs of local artists with their art. Each photograph will be displayed on two ValleyBike kiosks, in two different communities. Both the artist and their work will be represented in each photo.

Local organic farmers to host fruit tree workshop

BARRE – Many Hands Organic Farm will be hosting a workshop regarding organic fruit tree management Saturday, Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. to noon, at the farm in Barre and via Zoom. The farm has about 100 fruit trees with some of them as old as 40 years, all cared for in a certifiably organic fashion. Attendees will learn about grafting, fertility and try their hand at pruning some of the trees. Registration is free, and available on the Many Hands Organic Farm website at mhof.net/events-workshops.



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THE JUBILEE CUPBOARD provides emergency

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phone 413-967-3274. Donations of non-perishable

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open hours only or make arrangements for pickup.

Food may also be donated to The Jubilee Cupboard

at a drop off box at the Big Y Supermarket in Ware.

AA Thursdays, 7:30pm

UNITED CHURCH OF WARE

49 Church Street, Ware, MA 01082

413-967-9981

Office Hours: Monday 9-12/Tuesday 8:30-12:30/

Wed 9-2/Thurs 9-12/Friday closed

Saturday: Worship service 5:00 p.m (Communion

offered each week, Healing Worship on second

Saturday of each month)

Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 p.m.

Sunday: Worship service 10:30 a.m.

(Communion offered first Sunday of each month)

Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday School -

10:45 a.m., Children's Church after Children's

Sermon each Sunday, Coffee hour after service

Tuesday: T.O.P.S. 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Weight Watchers 5:00-7:30 p.m.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

17 North Street, Ware

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57 South Street, Ware

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Piotr Calik

General Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9am - 12pm; Friday: Closed

Cemetery Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 10am - 2pm; Friday: Closed

Phone numbers: 413-967-5913; 413-967-4963

Fax Number: 413-967-4679

Emails: allsaintschurch17@gmail.com

stmaryschurch60@gmail.com

www.allsaintsware.org • www.stmarysware.org

Mass Schedule:

4:00 PM Saturday - All Saints

5:15 PM Saturday - St. Mary's

8:00 AM Sunday - All Saints

9:30 AM Sunday - St. Mary's

5:15 PM Sunday - All Saints

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday and Tuesday 7:30 AM at All Saints

Wednesday and Thursday 7:30 AM at St. Mary's

First Friday 8:00 AM at All Saints

First Saturday 8:00 AM at St. Mary's

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

All Saints - Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 PM

St. Mary's - Saturday before the 5:15 PM Mass

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Vigil: 5:30 pm at All Saints

Day: 7:30 am - All Saints

12:10 pm - St. Mary's

6:30 pm - St. Mary's

Parish Office for both Churches is located at 60

South Street, Ware - MA 01082.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic time our office is open by

appointment only.

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58 Church St., Gilbertville, Tel. 477-6493

The Rev. Richard Lembo, Pastor

Saturday Confession: 3 p.m.; Vigil Mass: 4 p.m.

Sunday Mass: 7:30 a.m.

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98 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA

413-477-6493

The Rev. Richard Lembo, Pastor

Sunday 9 a.m.

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Fr. Senior Fryderyk Banas, Pastor

Sunday: 9 a.m. Mass

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258A Malbouef Road, Ware

Phone: 413-668-7041

Email: LBC7@gmail.com

Web: www.lbc7.com

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9:30am Prayer and Fellowship

10:00am Bible School

11:00am Worship Service

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE Services start at 10 a.m.

TRI-PARISH COMMUNITY CHURCH

3 Oakham Rd., P.O. Box 202

New Braintree 508-867-3306

The Tri-Parish Community Church rep-

resents the communities of Gilbertville,

Hardwick, and New Braintree. Our service will

begin at 10:00. Bible Study begins on 9/13

at 8:15 am - 9:30am. Choir Rehearsals are

at 9am and Sunday School returns on 9/13

at 10:00 am. We are worshipping at The First

Universalist Church of Hardwick, 9 Ruggles

Hill Rd. Hardwick through December.

All are welcome to worship and join in

fellowship and light refreshment following

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Change of Office Hours: Tuesdays &

Thursdays 10am - noon. Heidi Jeldres,

Administrative Assistant. (508)867-3306 tri-

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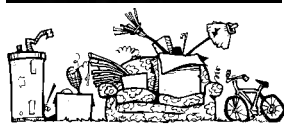
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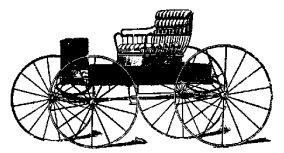
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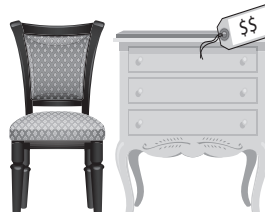


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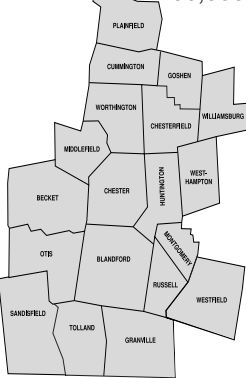
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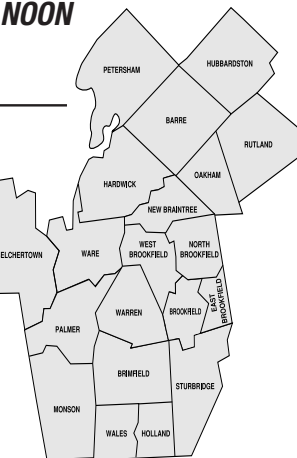
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SPRINGFIELD – The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts is seeking nominations from throughout Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire counties for the Pyncheon Award, which recognizes those citizens of our region who have rendered distinguished service to the community.

The Order of William Pyncheon was established by the Advertising Club in 1915 to recognize and encourage individuals whose lives and achievements typified the ideals of promoting citizenship and the building of a better community in western Massachusetts.

Past recipients include war heroes, social activists, teachers, volunteers, philanthropists, historians, clergy, physicians, journalists, public servants, and business leaders — a diverse group; each with a passion for our region and a selfless streak. A complete list of recipients since 1915 can be found at <http://www.adclubwm.org/events/pyncheonaward>.

To nominate an individual,

please submit a one-page letter explaining why the nominee should be considered. Please include biographical information, outstanding accomplishments, examples of service to the community, organizations he or she is or has been active in, and the names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of at least three people who can further attest to the nominee's eligibility for induction into the Order of William Pyncheon. The Pyncheon Trustees respectfully reserve the right to eliminate nominations from

consideration due to insufficient information.

Qualifying nominees will be considered and researched by the Pyncheon Trustees, composed of the current and five past presidents of the Advertising Club. Nominations must be submitted by March 19, 2021 to: William Pyncheon Trustees, Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts, P.O. Box 1022, West Springfield, MA 01090-1022 or by e-mail to info@adclubwm.org.

Pyncheon medalists are cho-

sen by unanimous decision of the Pyncheon Trustees. 2021 recipients will be announced in June of this year, with an awards ceremony tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2021. Recipients are presented with a bronze medal cast with the name and likeness of Springfield's founder, William Pyncheon, and bearing the inscription: "They honor us whom we honor."

The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts is the premier organization for all marketing and communications professionals in

western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut. The club offers its members the ability to advance and enrich the advertising community, by acting as a catalyst for idea exchange, professional development and creative energy. The club offers its members a forum to learn, network, recognize achievement and give back to build a stronger advertising and marketing community. Learn more at adclubwm.org.

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